

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

It is especially appalling that Sinclair is the same broadcast company that earlier this year refused to air the special Honor Roll of American soldiers KIA -- mostly in Iraq -- for purely political reasons. So some voices are worth being heard (Republican) while others are not ! ? !

This is not a case where Sinclair is deciding to open the airwaves. It is, however, a clear case of Sinclair making decisions for purely political purposes and to drive the election. This behavior is unacceptable, intolerable, and is to be condemned by the FCC immediately !

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.